

Assistive Technology Funding for Missourians

The information provided in this section is designed to help persons with disabilities, families, advocates, and providers identify sources of funding for assistive technology. Programs change over time, so we welcome any new information for this funding guide. Anyone having questions about any listings, or wanting to share new or additional funding information, may contact Missouri Assistive Technology at (800) 647-8557.

State and Federal Programs

Missouri Assistive Technology (MoAT)

The State of Missouri offers a consumer-responsive, comprehensive assistive technology service delivery system. Missouri Assistive Technology Council offers the following funding and lending programs for Assistive Technology:

Show Me Loans

Missouri's low-interest loan program for assistive technology devices, hearing aids, home access modifications and vehicle access modifications. For more information, see the Show-Me Loans page on this Missouri Assistive Technology website: <http://www.at.mo.gov/loans.shtm> or by phone, toll-free at (800) 647-8557. You may also send an e-mail to eileen.belton@att.net.

Kids Assistive Technology (KAT)

A program that can provide some funding assistance for assistive technology, minor home access modifications, and vehicle access modifications needed for children under 21 years of age in families of low and moderate income. For an application or more information, contact Missouri Assistive Technology at (800) 647-8557, or you may send an e-mail to eileen.belton@att.net.

Telecommunication Access Program (TAP)

TAP for Internet

This program provides adaptive computer equipment and software at no cost to enable a person with a disability access the internet. Items needed by persons with any disability for access such as screen reading software, enlarging software, adapted keyboards, and voice recognition software are examples of the types of items available in the program. For an application or more information, call Missouri Assistive Technology (MoAT) at (800) 647-8557 or see this MoAT website at http://www.at.mo.gov/TAP_internet.shtm.

TAP for Telephone

This program provides adaptive phone equipment at no cost for persons with disabilities who have problems using traditional phone equipment. Examples of items available are TTYs, amplified phones, amplified ringers and visual ringers, hands free phones, amplified speech phones, phones with enlarged or Braille numbers on the dial pad, and

others. For an application or more information, call Missouri Assistive Technology at (800) 647-8557 (Voice) or (800) 647-8558 (TTY) or see this MoAT website at: http://www.at.mo.gov/TAP_telephone.shtm.

Equipment Technology Consortium (ETC)

A statewide assistive technology loan program where schools or agencies can check out equipment for a person with a disability for up to six weeks. The program can help a person try out equipment before buying, or for a device to serve as a replacement while their own equipment is in for repairs. Types of equipment available for loan include augmentative communication devices, many types of switches and mounts, environmental controls, hearing devices, home modifications, telecommunications, vision devices, and others. For more information, you may call ETC in Blue Springs at (816) 228-6595 or at (800) 647-8557.

Swap ‘n’ Shop

A consumer-to-consumer equipment exchange program coordinated by Missouri Assistive Technology (MoAT). This program is designed to match up those individuals who are looking for equipment with those who have it for sale or donation. Many agencies get a monthly listing. The current listings are available on this MoAT website under the Swap’n Shop heading. Persons interested in listing equipment may contact MoAT at (800) 647-8557. MoAT handles the statewide recycling efforts. To determine what statewide program is currently funded, visit our website at: www.at.mo.gov.

The Department of Veterans Affairs

The Dept. of VA provides assistance for home modifications and independent living assistance for veterans. They offer 3 grant programs for either accessibility design, home modification or home repair. To find out more about the benefits, contact your local Veterans Service Officer call (800) 827-1000 or web: <http://www.vba.va.gov/VBA/benefits/factsheets/serviceconnected/homemods.doc>.

Missouri Health Net

Mo Health net (formerly MO Medicaid) provides coverage for durable medical equipment (DME). Medicaid eligibility is based on certain income guidelines and other factors such as disability. In order to be covered, DME must meet Health Net’s definition of “durable medical equipment”. Some devices typically covered in Missouri include: manual and power wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, augmentative communication devices, hospital beds, orthotics, prosthetics and eyeglasses. Hearing aids for adults are not currently covered in Missouri.

Missouri’s children under 21 can receive broader range of DME devices through Health Net than adults can receive. Children and adolescents aged birth to 21 years are covered for hearing aids. In fact, any device that can be shown to be medically necessary can be provided to children and adolescents through Health Net under federal law.

Items not covered under Health Net can sometimes be obtained through the Health Net Exceptions process. To obtain a device or service through Exceptions, the item has to meet certain criteria such as being needed to keep an individual from moving to a higher level of care such as a nursing home. There is an application form for Exceptions on the Division of Health Net website in the Dept. of Social Services.

If a service is denied, reduced, or terminated, you may ask for a State Fair Hearing (800) 391-2161. If you disagree with the hearing decision you may ask for an appeal.

Individuals in some parts of the state will receive their care through Health Net “health plans” or “managed care plans”. Covered services are the same as for those who are not in health plans.

Money Follows the Person

This program allows options after long term health and living care to live out in the community or work. The following website explains the grant and offers a video of an example in the State of Missouri. Contact your Center for Independent Living (CIL) to find out more about this option. Medicare Service Center: 800MEDICARE (800) 633-4227 or http://www.cms.hhs.gov/DeficitReductionAct/20_MFP.asp

Medicare

This is a federally funded health insurance program which can help some persons with disabilities fund certain assistive technology devices and services. Persons must be age 65 and older OR must be eligible for monthly Social Security benefits due to disability. In order to be covered, assistive devices must meet Medicare’s definition of “durable medical equipment” (DME). An individual must have Medicare Part B, the supplemental Medicare medical insurance which covers durable medical equipment. Under Part B, an individual must generally meet an annual deductible of \$100 and pay co-insurance of at least 20% of the Medicare approved amount for the device. Manual and motorized wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds, seat lift mechanisms, augmentative communication devices, oxygen equipment, artificial limbs, braces and ostomy supplies are some of the items covered.

Devices and equipment that have NOT been commonly covered by Medicare include eyeglasses, hearing aids, assistive listening systems, telecommunication devices, environmental control devices, home modifications and vehicle modifications. For more information or to enroll in Medicare, contact your local Social Security Field Office listed in your phone book. The Social Security Administration has a web page where you can type your zip code for their nearest office. The web address is: <https://s044a90.ssa.gov/apps6z/FOLO/fo001.jsp>

First Steps

Missouri's early intervention program for infants and toddlers with disabilities is First Steps. The First Steps Program is mandated under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and is a system of early intervention services for all infants and young children, from birth to age 3 years who have special health care needs. An Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) is developed for each child and his/her family, and includes a description of what services needed by each child/family. Services provided include assistive technology. Information about First Steps, including referring a child to First Steps, may be obtained by calling (573) 522-8762. You can find information about First Steps on the website of the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education at: <http://www.dese.mo.gov/divspeced/FirstSteps/index.html>.

Local School Districts

School districts have certain obligations under IDEA to provide assistive technology for children with disabilities when needed to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE). Each decision must be made on a case-by-case basis based on the educational needs of the student. If the student's Individual Education Program (IEP) team determines that he/she needs some type of assistive technology in order to receive FAPE, the child's IEP must contain a specific statement of such services. A school's or district's special education director is a point of contact to address the assistive technology needs of a student with a disability. To locate your district's Special Education Director, go to www.dese.mo.gov/directory/discnty.htm.

Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

This department can fund assistive technology devices and services when needed to assist adults with disabilities to gain or keep employment or to pursue college educations or other training programs that lead to employment. To be eligible for assistance through the Vocational Rehabilitation Program: 1) a person must have a physical or mental disability; 2) the disability must be a substantial impediment in getting or keeping a job; and 3) the person can benefit in terms of employment outcome from Vocational Rehabilitation services. There is no age limit for eligibility. Since gainful employment is the goal, most clients are between the ages of 16 and 65. Medical information must be obtained to document the disability. Financial status of the individual is considered and full or partial funding assistance for assistive technology may be provided on a sliding scale depending on income. Contact your district Vocational Rehabilitation office for more information. The web address for Vocational Rehabilitation is: <http://www.dese.mo.gov/vr/vocrehab.htm> or (877) 222-8963.

Missouri Rehabilitation Services for the Blind

This department can provide vocational services including assistive technology devices and services for persons with varying degrees of visual impairment. Persons may contact their district office of Rehabilitation Services for the Blind, or contact the State office at (573) 751-4249. The web address is: <http://www.dss.mo.gov/fsd/rsb>.

Rural Development (U.S. Department of Agriculture)

Here you will find a Home Repair Loans and Grants (Section 504) program that can be used for home access modifications as well as general home repairs. To be eligible for loans, the household must have income below 50% of the county median income and must have an acceptable credit history. To be eligible for a possible grant, the individual must be aged 62 or older and not able to afford a loan. The USDA Rural Development State office is in Columbia. The phone number is: (573) 876-0976 (voice) or (573) 876-9480 (TTY). The state USDA website has a listing of area and local offices in Missouri at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/>.

Community Action Agencies

CAA are regional agencies throughout Missouri that work in collaboration with other community agencies to provide services to low-income area residents. Some Community Action Agencies provide funding assistance for minor home access modifications. To see a list of agencies with contact information and the regions covered, you can call the Missouri Association of Community Action Agencies at (573) 634-2969 or go to their website at: www.communityaction.org.

Centers for Independent Living (CIL)

CIL provide state and federally funding services and programs from home modifications and wheelchair ramps, AT device demonstration, equipment loan programs, advocacy for independent living, living skills training, and many more. Website: <http://at4mo.org/at4mo/MissouriAssistiveTechnologyLinks/tabid/58/Default.aspx>.

Missouri AgrAbility Project

This project was created to assist people with disabilities employed in agriculture. The project provides practical education and assistance that promotes independence in agricultural production and rural living. The AgrAbility Project assists people involved in production agriculture who work both on small and large operations. For Project Information, call: (800) 995-8503.

National Disability Organization Resources

Muscular Dystrophy Family Foundation

This national foundation can be a funding source for wheelchairs, van lifts, hospital beds, breathing machines, ramps, and other orthopedic equipment and appliances for persons with muscular dystrophy. For more information, contact: Muscular Dystrophy Family Foundation; 615 N. Alabama Street, Suite 330; Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. The phone number is (800) 544-1213.

United Cerebral Palsy

UCP can be reached at their website at www.ucp.org or by phone at (800) 872-5827.

Multiple Sclerosis Society

MS society provides resources such as an equipment loan closet and can be reached by phone at (314) 781-9020 St. Louis area or (913) 432-3926 or visit their website at <http://www.nationalmssociety.org/about-multiple-sclerosis/index.aspx>.

American Amputee Foundation

This agency serves individuals who have amputations and are in need of assistance for prosthetics and orthotics. They can be reached at P.O. BOX 250218, Hillcrest Station, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72225, (501) 666-2523.

National Spinal Cord Injury Association

NSCIA offers assistance for individuals that have spinal injuries. They can be reached at 6901 Democracy Blvd., Suite 300-9, Bethesda, MD 20817, (301) 588-6959 or Toll free (800) 962-9629

ALS Association – Adaptation & Equipment Program

This program offers the evaluation of equipment needs and home adaptations needs for devices and adaptations. They also have a loan pool of primarily used equipment that can be used if other sources are not available. To find your local chapters enter your zip code at their website: <http://www.alsa-midwest.org/>.

The Travis Roy Foundation

This foundation offers assistance for individuals that are paraplegics or quadriplegics paralyzed due to a spinal cord injury. There must be financial need and be a USA resident. There is no age requirement. A grant application can be obtained on their website or by writing to the following: Travis Roy Foundation, Attn: Brenda Taylor, Foundation Coordinator, 60 State St, 8th Floor, Boston, MA 02109 or visit their website at: <http://www.travisroyfoundation.org/pages/grants.html>.

The Melvin Weinstein Parkinson's Foundation

The Melvin Weinstein Parkinson's Foundation ("MWPF") is a not-for-profit organization that raises money to purchase medical equipment and health supplies for Parkinson's patients to help with the maintenance of safe and healthier living environments. Contact them by phone at 757-313-9729 or their website at: <http://www.mwpf.org/>

Service Organization Resources

Some national disability organizations have small grant programs or equipment loan programs for persons with disabilities. These kinds of programs vary depending on the local branch of the disability organization and may change frequently, depending on available funds. Organizations associated with particular disabilities should not be overlooked as possible funding resources. Missouri's Governor's Council on Disabilities publishes a Directory of Resources for Missourians with Disabilities that includes phone numbers and addresses of various disability organizations. The Governor Council's

phone number is (800) 877-8249. Their resource directory web page that allows searches by county is at: <http://www.gcd.oa.mo.gov/directory/directory1.shtml>.

Children Only

Missouri Cattlemen's Association Children's Fund is a statewide fund that can provide necessary medical equipment that is not covered by other funding sources such as wheelchairs, braces, prosthetic, walkers, or other rehabilitative equipment for disabled children up through 18 years of age. The fund will match dollar-for-dollar the recipient's contribution up to \$500 per request. For more information or an application, contact the Heartland Regional Community Foundation at (816) 271-7200 or by mail at 801 Faraon Street, St. Joseph, MO 64501. Contact: Joyce Weight, Accounting Support.

Variety Club, Kids on the Go! is a charitable organization that can sometimes provide funding to children with disabilities for assistive devices, services and medical expenses. Both the Kansas City and St. Louis areas have a Variety Club affiliate. In the Kansas City area they can be reached at (913) 558-2309, www.varietyKC.org, or by letter at P.O. Box 3446, Shawnee, KS 66203. The St. Louis Affiliate, Variety, The Children's Charity provides therapeutic bikes to kids with physical disabilities. They be reached by telephone at (314) 453-0453 or by letter at 2200 Westport Plaza Drive, St. Louis 63146 or visit their website at <http://www.varietystl.org/>

First Hand Foundation sponsored by the Cerner Corporation out of Kansas City offers a kids grant. This grant provides funding for treatment, medical equipment, Assistive technology devices, vehicle modifications and displacement costs for families during medical care. Their website is www.cerner.com/Firsthand/ Or call (816) 201-1569 to determine eligibility and the application process.

Children and Adults

NOTE: Due to economic challenges, some of the funding sources might not be able to provide assistant year round. Do clarify up front with the agency if they are accepting applications at the time you place your call.

The UCP Elsie S. Bellows Fund is a national program operated by UCP that provides funds to individuals with disabilities for assistive technology equipment. Individuals are recommended by UCP affiliates. UCP Heartland in Manchester, MO (636) 227-6030, UCP of Greater Kansas City in Kansas City, MO, (816) 531-4454 and UCP of Northwest Missouri in St. Joseph, Mo (816) 364-3836. UCP affiliates submit an application on behalf of an individual to the UCP national office. Applications are reviewed for funding by the Bellows Committee.

The website is: <http://www.ucp.org/affiliates/benefits-of-affiliation/bellows-fund> or contact Jack Schillinger at 305-757-8989 for more information.

Midwest Special Needs Trust General Charitable Grants are available for a wide range of needs. Grants up to \$1,000 can be provided for durable medical equipment and other purposes and must meet the Trust's low-income guidelines. An application can be obtained off their website at: <http://www.midwestspecialneedstrust.org> Grant applications are reviewed quarterly. Contact phone: (888) 671-1069.

Helping Hands Foundation is a local grant funding source for the Kansas City area. It is a last resort funding option and they can be reached at (913) 341-5411 or www.helpingfoundation.org.

Sertoma is an international charity that focuses on helping people who have communication disorders, mainly hearing aids devices. Sertoma has numerous clubs in Missouri. To find out if there is a local chapter in your area and to inquire about assistance from Sertoma, contact the International Sponsorships Director at (816) 333-8300 or e-mail infosertoma@sertoma.org. The email should contain the individual's contact information, a brief description of need and location of residents.

Kansas City's Metro Lutheran Ministries may be able to provide minor home repairs for seniors that can include minor access modifications. Contact: (816) 931-0027 extension 249.

Friends of Man offers assistance for individuals and children by accepting a referral from a professional or school representative only. Individuals can not apply directly. This charity offers assistance for medicine, prostheses, wheelchairs, eye glasses, dentures, medical equipment, daycare, training and education, hearing aids and more. Their contact information is as follows: Friends of Man, P.O. BOX 937, Littleton, CO 80160-0937, (303) 798-2342. OR visit their website at: <http://www.friendsofman.org/index.php>.

Civic organizations in your county or city may also be a source of funding for assistive technology. Local groups, such as Lions Clubs, Jaycees, Kiwanis, etc., may have charitable giving priorities, but are worth contacting for possible assistance. Many area Chambers of Commerce maintain listings of civic organizations in the community.

Refurbished Computer Programs

Arts Tech obtains donations of computers from corporate and other sources and refurbishes them, if needed. The computers then can be provided to persons with disabilities for a low fee. Available computer systems depend on what systems have been donated to the Institute. A letter of necessity written by a case manager, doctor or similar individual on their stationery is required. For more information, call the Arts Tech at (816) 461-0201 or write to them at 1522 Holmes St., Kansas City, MO 64108.

Voluntary Action Center Phone provides recycled computers for residents in Columbia, MO on occasion. Their eligibility changes from time to time so contact them directly if you are a resident of Columbia, MO at (573) 874-2273.

Web Innovations & Technology Services is a volunteer program that offers free computers to St. Louis, MO residents with exchange for volunteer services. You will need to contact them directly to determine eligibility requirements and the commitment expected at (314) 382-1650.

Disability Specific Resources

Hearing Resources

Hearing Aid Loaner Bank, is operated by the Missouri School for the Deaf. Hearing aids are donated, then fit by an audiologist for children who have difficulty obtaining hearing aids. The program requires the child have a documented hearing loss, a current copy of an audiogram and their own ear molds. For more information, call (573) 592-2543.

Hear Now provides hearing aids and cochlear implants for individuals with limited financial resources. Starkey Hearing Foundation offers the Hear Now that coordinates a national hearing aid bank and accepts hearing aid donations from people all over the country. For more information call (800) 648-4327 or go to: <http://www.sotheworldmayhear.org/hearnow/>.

HIKE Fund. Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment is a national charity that can be a funding resource for hearing aids and assistive listening devices for children up to age 20. To receive an application, persons may call (402) 592-7987 or may write to: The HIKE Fund, c/o the International Center for Jobs Daughters, 233 W. 6th Street, Papillion, NE 68047 or go to: www.thehikefund.org.

The Travelers Protective Association of America

This is scholarship trust for the deaf and near deaf. It is provided to US residents on a one time nonrecurring fund. Priority is given to those demonstrating the greatest financial need. Applications can be obtained by calling (314) 371-0533 or toll free (877) 284-8691 or visit their website at www.mindspring.com/~tpatxdiv/scholar.htm

Vision Resources

Missouri Council of the Blind - operates a matching grant program for the purchase of adapted technology (the Adaptive Technology Grant Program). This program is available to anyone who is legally blind and has exhausted all other sources of private and public funding for the desired device. For every dollar that the individual commits, the grant will match them up to \$3,000. While the program will fund computer adaptations, it will not

fund computers. An application form and other information can be obtained by calling the Council's main office at (800) 342-5632 or visit their website at <http://www.missouricounciloftheblind.org/>.

National Federation for the Blind – NFB offers scholarships for post-secondary bound students. Each year at its national convention in July, the NFB gives a broad array of thirty scholarships to recognize achievement by blind scholars. www.nfb.org and search for resources for learning.

American Foundation for the Blind - AFB scholarships and computer lessons for elderly - www.afb.org and <http://www.seniornet.org/jsnet/>.

Wolfner Library - The Wolfner Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is a library service to anyone in the State of Missouri who is unable to use standard print materials due to a visual or physical disability - provide audio books with readers - (800) 392-2614 or Toll-free within Missouri or web access at: www.sos.mo.gov/wolfner.

Radio Reader Services

Free radio receivers are available for those who are blind or print disabled to provide content access to daily and weekly newspapers, magazines, and best-selling books. To find out if reception is available in your area, for western Missouri residents may contact Kansas Audio Reader at <http://reader.ku.edu> or (800) 772-8898, or for eastern Missouri residents contact MindsEye at www.mindseyeradio.org or (314) 241-3400 ext 6221.

Pearle Vision Foundation assists individuals with low vision aids and equipment who demonstrate financial hardship. They can be reached at 2465 Joe Field Rd, Dallas, Texas, 75229, telephone: (972) 277-6191.

Developmental Disabilities Resources

Regional Centers for persons with developmental disabilities provide or help obtain needed services for Missourians with developmental disabilities. A Regional Center staff person will be assigned to work with individuals and their families. Eligible persons may gain access to a variety of services through the Regional Centers including therapies, family support, and residential services. Case coordinators may be able to assist individuals obtain assistive technology through a home and community-based waiver, program, stipend or other resources. Choices for families prevent or delay out of home placement. The Regional Centers operate under the Division of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, Missouri Department of Mental Health. If you need more information about eligibility or available services, contact the nearest of Missouri's eleven Regional Center offices. A map showing the locations and coverage areas of the MRDD Regional Centers web page is at: www.dmh.mo.gov/mrdd

County Developmental Disability Boards (SB40 boards) can be a funding resource for assistive technology, depending on the county. Some provide only residential services and sheltered workshops, while others can help fund items such as assistive technology and housing access modifications. For more information, member county boards of the Missouri Association for County Developmental Disability Services are listed at: www.macdds.org

Additional Resources

USDA Rural development offers housing loans/grants for rural housing. This is a federal program that can provide assistance to low income home owners to buy, build or repair homes. Contact Columbia Department of Planning and Development at (573) 874-7239.

Safelink is a program that provides a free low minutes cell phone to those that meet the eligibility criteria. You are required to fill out an application and provide the requested supporting documentation. To enquire about the program in your area, and how to apply. Visit <https://www.safelinkwireless.com> or call (866) 902-5756.

CLAIM is a non profit group that can help with questions about Medicare. They offer a statewide network of volunteers since 1993. Their services are free of charge and they can help with claim forms, benefit questions and more. You can reach them at (800) 390-3330 or visit their website at <http://www.missouricclaim.org/>

The Missouri Rx Plan offers seniors and people with disabilities on a fixed income the option to save costs on prescription medication. This program works with Medicare Part D to help reduce the cost of medications. They can be reached at <http://morx.mo.gov/> or call them at 1(800) 375-1406.

Human Development Corporation offers a weatherization and utility program across the state. They have several locations in various counties handled by the Community Action Agencies. The main contact number is (573) 443-8731.

HeRo Program is a Home repair opportunity program. This program provided assistance for funds rehabilitation of the building, accessibility, weatherization and lead risk reduction. Income level requirements vary by county. You must meet the eligibility requirements. Visit their website to get the contact information to see if you meet the eligibility requirements at <http://www.mhdc.com/> The home office is based in Kansas City and you can reach them at 1-816- 759-6600 or TTY at 1- 816-759-6839.

Collaboration Works offers recycled items as well as donated medical supplies, medical goods and equipment at a low cost. This service can be free to caregivers, seniors and individuals with

special needs. They are located in north Kansas City area. Their website is www.collaborationworksonline.com and phone is (816) 421-1305.